REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, pending Claims 1-15 were rejected. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On July 14, 2004, Applicants' counsel and one of the inventors, Geoffrey Zweig, conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner in which the applied Woodland reference was discussed in view of the present application. It was agreed that in view of the amendments made to the claims herein, the claims appeared to be allowable over the references of record.

The disclosure stands objected to because of an unmatched left parenthesis and because it allegedly contains an embedded hyperlink or other form of browser executable code. The disclosure has been amended to match the parenthesis, thereby correcting an obvious typographical error. Applicants respectfully disagree the disclosure contains an improper embedded hyperlink and traverse this objection. It should be noted that the http:// portion of the web address appearing in the specification is contained within [], thus the address appears in the specification as [http://]www-tlp.limsi.fr/asr2000. Applicants respectfully submit that this complies with MPEP § 608.01 as the address in this form is not a hyperlink or browser executable code. *See* U.S. Patent No. 6,705,943 (March 16, 2004) (web addresses in the format [http:// are not a hyperlink or browser executable code when the patent is retrieved from the USPTO web site).

Claims 1-15 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding

Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims; the

remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been rewritten.

Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these

amendments. It should also be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the

Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being

anticipated by Woodland et al. Claims 2-6 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.SC 103(a)

over Woodland et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,462 to Nguyen et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully

requested.

The present invention recognizes that it is possible to improve upon the

performance of MLLR, even when the unsupervised transcription is mildly erroneous, by

taking into account the fact that the initial transcription contains errors. This may be

accomplished, for example, by considering not just the "1-best" (*i.e.,* single best)

transcription produced during the first pass decoding, but the top N candidates. (Page 3,

lines 2-7) In producing word lattices, the present invention takes into account the

language model probabilities (which are ignored in the MLLR formulation), by

incorporating them into the transition probability corresponding to the transition from the

final state of a word in the word graph to the initial state of the next connected word in

the word graph. (Page 8, lines 11-14)

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As best understood, Woodland et al. appears to be directed to, *inter alia*, using word lattices in vocabulary speech recognition systems. (Page 1135). In Woodland et al. HHM-1 models with tight pruning are used to give a rough initial transcription of the data. (*Id.*) Using the transcription from a second preliminary pass, MLLR adaptation is performed. These models are then used to generate word lattices using a bigram language model. (Pages 1135-36) There is no teaching or suggestion of taking into account the language model probabilities.

The instantly claimed invention recites "generating a word lattice having a plurality of paths based on the speaker data" and "adapting at least one of the speaker data and the at least one speech recognition model with respect to the generated word lattice in a manner to maximize the likelihood of the speaker data". (Claims 1 and 15) Similar language appears in independent claim 8. At a minimum, adapting the speech recognition model with respect to the generated word lattice in a manner to maximize the likelihood of the speaker data is simply not taught or suggested by Woodland et al. As such, Woodland et al. does not anticipate the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), nor is the present invention obvious over the combination of Woodland et al. and Nguyen et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
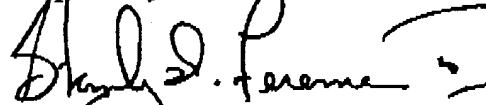
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-7,and 9-14 are also presently allowable.

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(590.023)

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-15, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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